

News Story Rubric

	5	4	3	2	1	0	X	
Organization	The structure clearly follows the inverted pyramid and easily moves the reader through the text. This story also passes the cutoff test. Thoughtful transitions clearly show how ideas connect. The story focuses on a specific angle. Organization flows so smoothly the reader hardly thinks about it.	The structure follows the inverted pyramid at most times and easily moves the reader through the text. This story also passes the cutoff test. Transitions often work well; at other times, connections between facts are confusing. The story builds on the facts presented in the lead but does not have a specific angle.	The organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader through the text without too much confusion, but does not always follow the inverted pyramid style. Transitions are attempted, but are not always successful. The organization sometimes supports the angle of the story; at other times, the reader wishes to move things around or focus on one idea.	There is little evidence of inverted pyramid organization. Facts often seem strung together in a loose or chronological order. Connections between ideas are confusing. The angle of the story is unclear, but the reader does understand the facts of the story.	The writing lacks a clear sense of direction. Facts seem strung together in a loose or random fashion or in chronological order, but not the inverted pyramid structure. There is no real lead to set up what follows or angle to the story. Connections between ideas are confusing or not even present. Problems make it hard for the reader to understand the story line.	No organization is attempted. The story is simply a list of seemingly unrelated facts.	5 (25)	
Grammar	Errors tend to be so few that just minor touch-ups would get this piece ready to publish. Spelling is correct. The punctuation is accurate. A thorough understanding and consistent application of capitalization skills is present. Grammar and usage are correct and contribute to clarity and style. Paragraphing is sound and paragraphs are brief. First person is never used.	F. Moderate editing would be required to polish the text for publication. Spelling is generally correct. The punctuation is usually accurate. A thorough understanding and consistent application of capitalization skills is present. Grammar and usage are correct and contribute to clarity and style. Paragraphing is sound and paragraphs are usually brief. First person is not used.	Editing would be required to enhance readability before publication. Spelling is usually correct but more difficult words are problematic. Punctuation is usually correct, but internal punctuation is sometimes missing/wrong. Most words are capitalized correctly; control over some capitalization skills may be spotty. Paragraphing may run together. First person is almost never used.	Errors are distracting and impair readability. There are frequent spelling errors. Punctuation is usually correct, but internal punctuation is usually missing/wrong. Control over more sophisticated capitalization skills is spotty. Paragraphing is missing or irregular. First person is often used.	Errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage and grammar and/or paragraphing distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. Errors in grammar or usage are very noticeable, frequent, and affect meaning. Paragraphing is missing. First person regularly used.	The story has so many errors that it is unreadable.	3 (15)	
Content	The facts of the story are all accurate and the sources are clear. Relevant anecdotes and details enrich the angle. The topic is narrow and manageable. The writer seems to be writing from knowledge and clearly understands the facts. The reader's questions are anticipated and answered.	The facts of the story are all accurate and the sources are usually clear. Relevant anecdotes and details enrich the angle, but more could be used. The topic is narrow and manageable. The writer understands the facts, but the facts are not always presented clearly. The reader may have further questions about the story.	The facts of the story are not always accurate. It is difficult to tell what sources were used. The angle is fairly broad. The facts are clear, though they may not be detailed, personalized, or show that the writer has an in-depth understanding of the subject. The reader is left with questions. More information is needed to fill in the blanks.	There are many factual errors in the story and it is impossible to see what sources were used. The story is vague and the angle is too broad. The facts are unclear and may not be detailed, personalized, or show that the writer has an in-depth understanding of the subject. The reader is left with questions. More information is needed to fill in the blanks.	There are many factual errors in the story and it is impossible to see what sources were used. As yet, the paper has no clear sense of purpose or central theme. The text may be repetitious, or may read like a collection of disconnected, random thoughts with no discernable point. The reader is left confused with many questions about the subject.	The story is very inaccurate and/or vague. No sources appear to have been used. The reader does not know what the story is about.	5 (25)	
Quotes	Quotes are relevant and add interest and meaning to the story. Quotes placed into the story at appropriate places. Quotes are from a variety of relevant sources, both directly and indirectly. Punctuation and citation is correct.	Quotes are relevant and add interest and meaning to the story. Quotes are placed into the story at appropriate places. Quotes need to reflect a broader variety of sources. Punctuation and citation is correct.	Quotes are present, but do not always add to the story. Quotes are usually incorporated into the story at appropriate places. Quotes need to reflect a broader variety of sources. Punctuation and citation is usually correct.	Quotes are infrequent. Quotes are seldom incorporated into the story at appropriate places. Quotes need to reflect a broader variety of sources. Punctuation and citation is often incorrect.	There are only a few quotes in the story. Quotes need to reflect a broader variety of sources. Punctuation and citation consistently incorrect.	There are no quotes in the story.	4 (20)	
Objectivity	All sides of the issue are presented clearly, without bias and given an appropriate amount of coverage. Differing opinions are given similar prominence in the inverted pyramid. Word choice is careful not to assign guilt/innocence, praise/scolding to any party. Opinions are carefully cited to others and the writer's opinions are not stated.	All sides of the issue are presented clearly, without bias and given an appropriate amount of coverage. Problems may exist in the placement of the differing opinions in the article. Word choice is generally careful not to assign guilt/innocence, praise/scolding to any party. Opinions are carefully cited to others and the writer's opinions are not stated.	All sides of the issue are presented clearly, without bias and given an appropriate amount of coverage. Problems may exist in the placement of the differing opinions in the article. Word choice is sometimes biased. It is not always clear whose opinions are cited. The writer may express vague opinions ("Go team!") that don't harm the overall story.	All sides of the issue are not equitably covered. Problems exist in the placement of the differing opinions in the article. Word choice is often biased. It is not always clear whose opinions are cited. The writer may express vague opinions ("Good luck girls soccer") but overall they do not harm the story.	Only one side of the issue is presented. Word choice is often biased. When opinions are expressed, it is not clear whose opinions they are. Often, opinions appear to be that of the writer, either vaguely or with the use of first person.	Only one side of the issue is presented. Opinions are the writer's, either vaguely or with the use of first person. The story is very biased and either artificially inflates/deflates one side of the story.	5 (25)	
Lead	The most important facts of the story are quickly summarized in the lead. Even the word order within the lead reflects the inverted pyramid style of the entire story. The lead is crisp and clear in its language. The lead is one to two sentences and does not start with a quote or question or date.	The most important facts of the story are quickly summarized in the lead. The lead is generally crisp and clear in its language. The lead is one to two sentences and does not start with a quote or question or date.	The lead presents some of the most important information from the story. The language in the lead is somewhat dry. The lead is one to two sentences and does not start with a quote or question. It may begin with the date.	The lead may be one to two sentences and may start with a quote or question or date. The lead presents some of the most important information from the story. The language in the lead is somewhat dry. The reader may be confused about the angle of the story.	The lead may be one to two sentences and may start with a quote or question or date. The lead does not present the most important information, possibly starting the story in a chronological organization. The language in the lead is very dry. The reader may be confused about the angle of the story.	The lead presents extremely little useful information. The reader does not know what the story is about. The lead does not follow class guidelines.	4 (20)	
Points Possible:							130	